

DOCKET NO.: ISIS-4718
Application No.: 09/805,630
Office Action Dated: April 7, 2004

**PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116**

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 19 and 34-47 are pending. Claim 19 is amended. The basis for this amendment can be found, for example, at page 4, lines 27-31. The specification is also amended as discussed below.

The Office Action requires amendment of the specification to reflect the claim of priority to the parent application. Such an amendment is included herein. In the paragraph spanning pages 2-3 of our March 14, 2001 transmittal accompanying the patent application, we presented an amendment relating to this claim of priority including the incorporation by reference of the parent application. The amendment submitted herein updates the prior language to include the issued patent number of the parent application.

The Brief Description of the Drawings is amended to reflect the sequence identification numbers of the sequences contained in Figures 1-2. Applicants note that these sequence numbers were added to the replacement drawing that were submitted on July 25, 2003.

Claims 19, and 34-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the helpful suggestions contained in the Office Action. As suggested, claim 19 is amended to recite the language "capable of specifically hybridizing." Also as suggested, we have amended step (b) to link the determination that hybridization has occurred with the identification of the nucleic acid recited in the claim preamble. We believe that these amendments should resolve any allegations of indefiniteness. As such, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

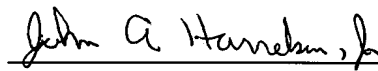
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Applicants believe that the foregoing constitutes a complete and full response to the Office Action of record. Accordingly, an early and favorable reconsideration of the rejections and an allowance of all of pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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